INFORMATION LETTER

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QMC Bars Overtime Inspection on Canned Foods Procurements

The QMC has notified the trade that it will no longer permit inspection of canned foods on overtime. As soon as possible, all NIP's will stipulate that canned food purchases will be inspected only on five days a week, Monday through Friday, in any 8-hour cycle from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The action is aimed at a reduction in federal spending. It stems from a policy directive by the Secretary of Defense which constitutes a general prohibition on overtime in defense contracting. The policy was created by Secretary Wilson in May and modified in June and is being implemented now by the various Defense Department buying agencies.

The existing Defense Department policy bans overtime except to eliminate production bottlenecks which cannot be eliminated in any other way, to cope with emergencies, to make up for delays beyond the control of the contractor, or to perform tests or laboratory procedures which cannot reasonably be interrupted.

The policy directive also requires renegotiation of existing contracts to reduce or eliminate overtime.

The Executive Director of the Military Subsistence Supply Agency in Chicago has been instructed by the Defense Department that inspection of canned foods is to be performed without payment of overtime, and this information has been given to the canning industry by the various Market Centers, with October 10 as the effective date of this new policy.

It is understood that the only exception so far allowed with respect to canned food procurement is in contracts wherein the overtime inspection will not exceed 2 percent of the labor hours of the contract and will result in a cost advantage to the government.

QMC officials are well aware of the difficulties created by the new policy with respect to contracts which involve inspection of "in-process" production. They suggest, however, that the new policy will have no effect on procurement of warehouse stocks because they usually are inspected on regular time.

Three Boardwalk Hotels Now Fully Booked for Convention

The Traymore, Shelburne and Claridge Hotels are now fully booked for the 1958 Convention in Atlantic City. Bookings are continuing rapidly in other Atlantic City hotels and motels, including several of the Boardwalk locations, as fast as room reservations arrive from canners, brokers, and buyers.

A number of brokers had requested reservations in the Traymore and Shelburne and had been informed that since these were traditionally canner hotels, their requests would have to be held in abeyance until all the canners customarily using Traymore and Shelburne space had been heard from. This week canner requests exceeded the space in these hotels and the Association was obliged to so advise the brokers on the waiting list. These particular brokers, however, are being housed in the hotels they had requested in case Shelburne and Traymore space proved unavailable.

The Claridge, traditionally allocated to the machinery and supply group, has been fully booked, according to W. D. Lewis, secretary of the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association. The Chalfonte-Haddon Hall has been booked with broker, buyer, canner and machinery reservations to about 75 percent of capacity at this stage. Other reservation requests have been filed with some 20 other Atlantic City hotels, following indications of first choice shown in the reservation request forms submitted, and this procedure is continuous. Several of these are on the Boardwalk and class A rooms are still available.

N.C.A. Surveys Apple Canners on Quality Specifications

A survey of apple processors who can apples, as slices, sauce, or baby food, has recently been conducted by the N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau. The survey, instigated by the Fruit Projects Steering Committee of the Raw Products Technical Advisory Committee, was conducted for the purpose of obtaining canners' opinions on what specific fruit characteristics they desire in an apple for canning purposes. Additional information was obtained on the relative quality rank of the various present-day varieties utilized by them.

This survey was designed to obtain information which would be of particular value to fruit breeders in the agricultural experiment stations and the USDA in the evaluation of apple seedlings resulting from their various breeding programs. This information should also be of interest to pomologists and food technologists concerned with apple production and processing.

The published summary was based on completed questionnaires received from 36 canners who process 70 percent of the total yearly pack of slices and sauce. Reports were received from processors in the states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Colorado. Copies of the summary have been sent to all those who submitted a completed questionnaire, as well as to fruit breeders, pomologists, and food technologists concerned with the production and processing of apples. Additional copies are available on request from the Raw Products Research Bureau.

USDA Schedules Discussions on Poultry Inspection Regulations

The Poultry Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has scheduled a series of public meetings at which its proposed regulations for the poultry inspection program will be discussed.

The Poultry Division has announced that it will furnish copies of the proposed regulations in advance of each of the meetings, which are to be held for the benefit of persons who will be affected by the inspection program.

USDA expects that it will take two days at each meeting to discuss the proposed regulations, answer ques-

tions, and consider suggested changes. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., according to the following schedule:

OCTOBER 7-8

Washington, D. C.—Thomas Jefferson Auditorium, South Agriculture Bldg.

OCTOBER 14-15

Chicago—Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams St.
Fort Worth—Texas Hotel

OCTOBER 17-18

Atlanta—State Agriculture Bldg., Room 201
Kansas City—Hotel Continental, Georgian Room
Los Angeles—State Building Auditorium

OCTOBER 21-22

Minneapolis—Dyckman Hotel, 27 S. Sixth St.
New York City—252 Seventh Avenue
Portland, Ore.—Auditorium, U. S. Interior Department Bldg., Holladay St. Entrance

OCTOBER 24-25

Boston—Hotel Bradford, 275 Fairmont St.
Columbus, Ohio—Deshler-Hilton Hotel
Salt Lake City—U. S. Post Office & Courthouse, 230 Grand Jury Room

Price Support for Corn

USDA has announced that the national average support price for 1957-crop corn produced under allotments in the commercial area will be $1.40 a bushel or 77 percent of the September 15 parity price. This is 4 cents a bushel more than the advance minimum support rate which had been announced last November.

Corn produced in noncommercial areas will be supported at a national average level of $1.27 a bushel or 70 percent of the September 15 parity price.

USDA has already announced support for corn in the commercial area but not in compliance with acreage allotments at $1.10 a bushel.

USDA Services to Farmer Coops

A review of USDA services to farmer cooperatives has been instituted, and Paul S. Armstrong, former general manager of Sunkist Growers, Inc., has been named a special consultant to the Secretary of Agriculture to make the review.

The National Agricultural Advisory Commission had requested a detailed review of services now performed by USDA for farmers' cooperative marketing and purchasing organizations. Secretary Benson said the review is being undertaken with the aim of possibly strengthening and broadening USDA assistance to farmer cooperatives in research, education, and service.

Mr. Armstrong retired last January after 25 years as general manager of Sunkist. He started work with the USDA this week in Washington.

Poultry Improvement Plan

Record participation in the National Poultry Improvement Plan is reported by USDA. As of June 30, more than 39 million birds in about 67,000 flocks were in the program, compared with the previous record of more than 37 million birds in some 96,000 flocks in 1951-52.

Flock owners in 47 states are taking part in the national program, sponsored by USDA. Its major objectives are breeding improvement and the control and eradication of poultry diseases, with specific emphasis on pullorum and typhoid.

Use of Chemicals Likely To Increase, USDA Predicts

Treatment of crops and farm land with agricultural chemicals is expected to increase rapidly in the next few years, according to the USDA.

Scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service expect the most spectacular progress to be made in "agricultural aviation," and they also anticipate development in ground dispersing equipment and methods.

Chemicals used will include fertilizers, insecticides, weed killers, and fungicides.

Although aircraft are already treating the equivalent of one-fifth of the nation's 410 million acres under cultivation, the ARS says that dispersing chemicals by air is still in the pioneering stage.

Special planes, engineered specifically for releasing either liquid or dry chemicals, are already appearing and are expected, eventually, to replace the war surplus aircraft that have carried much of the load thus far. Future farm planes will be designed for slower flight, shorter take-offs and landings, improved pilot visibility, and maximum safety, and will have improved equipment for dispersing chemicals.

Devices for efficient distribution of the chemicals will be developed to keep pace with the improvements in aircraft.

The complexity of the problem facing equipment designers is increased, USDA reports, by the speed with which research produces new and more effective agricultural chemicals.

More efficient ground dispersing equipment has begun to appear, too. Spray blowers, mist blowers, and fog blowers have replaced the older high-volume, high-pressure sprayers in many areas, while boom sprayers have replaced dusters except for certain specific purposes.

The ARS scientists cite the following factors as most important in contributing to the current growth of chemical treatment of land:

(1) Development of new crop varieties, many of which have proved attractive to pests.

(2) Discovery of effective pesticidal chemicals that can be applied in liquid form.

(3) Public demand for elimination of crop and other losses due to pests.

(4) Discovery that large crop losses in many areas, formerly charged to soil deficiencies, are actually due to nematodes or other pests.

(5) Improved inorganic fertilizers.

(6) Invasion or spread of pests such as the pink bollworm, Mediterranean fruit fly, witchweed, soybean cyst nematode, and others.

(7) Abundance of trained pilots and aircraft since World War II.

Fertilizing Orchard Trees

Winter temperatures and winter rainfall are important factors to consider in deciding when to plant and fertilize orchard trees, the USDA advises.

In areas where temperatures in winter frequently fall below zero, early-spring planting is recommended for best results, say horticulturists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Newly-planted nursery trees are usually more susceptible to winter injury than older trees in the orchard. Such trees often grow until late summer at the nursery and do not entirely ripen before they are dug in the fall. This makes them subject to injury or death if low temperatures occur during the winter after fall planting. The roots of young trees are particularly sensitive to cold injury, and exposure of the roots to temperatures of only 25° F. may cause damage.

However, early-winter planting has definite advantages in areas where winter temperatures are relatively mild. Winter rainfall can help settle the soil firmly about the roots, and new root growth will begin when spring arrives. Trees in warmer sections of the country may be set out any time the ground is unfrozen and temperatures are above freezing.

Research has shown that applying fertilizer in early winter, after the leaves have fallen but before the ground freezes, gives excellent results in most parts of the country. Where rainfall is limited and most of it falls

in the winter, fertilizing in late fall or early-winter is especially effective. Winter rains will carry the applied nutrients into the root zone, making them available for use by the time the trees start growth in the spring.

Spring fertilization may be too late to be useful in promoting early-spring tree growth. Also, in orchards with an undergrowth of sod, the grass will use up most of the nitrogen applied in early spring.

A few reports from colder areas of the country show that fall fertilizer application can render trees more susceptible to winter-injury. Areas with sandy or very shallow soils may also qualify as questionable locations for fall or early-winter fertilization because of the danger of nutrient loss through leaching. Orchards on soils of this type may need additional application of fertilizer in the spring after heavy winter precipitation.

Pea Improvement Association Has Program for Technical Men

A meeting of persons interested in pea breeding will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., November 12.

Technical representatives from the canning industry and seedsmen will present their views on industry requirements in new pea varieties and will discuss problems associated with the development and evaluation of new varieties for canning.

In addition to personnel from the canning industry and the seedsmen, the meeting will be attended by pea breeders from the USDA and state agricultural experiment stations.

Arrangements for the meeting have been made by the Pea Improvement Association, of which Dr. J. C. Walker, professor of plant physiology at the University of Wisconsin, is chairman, and Dr. J. O. Young of Libby, McNeill & Libby, Blue Island, Ill., is secretary-treasurer. Arrangements for attendance should be made through them.

The program includes reports on canner requirements in pea varieties, by Larry Polzak, The Larsen Co.; arranging and conducting variety trials, by F. W. Sherry, Libby, McNeill & Libby; problems in breeding perfection-type peas, by S. O. Lawyer, California Packing Corp.; and the seedsmen's problems in meeting canner requirements through breeding, by W. H. Pierce, Asgrow Research Center.

Snap Bean Improvement, Other Than Breeding, To Be Discussed

An all-day conference and discussion on snap bean improvement will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., November 13. The meeting will be open to processors, seedsmen, and experiment station and USDA research workers.

The meeting will be concerned with improvement of snap beans by means other than breeding. On the program will be reports on mechanical harvesting, evaluation of varieties, environmental factors affecting yield and quality, and seed quality. After reviews of developments in each of those fields, there will be discussion periods in which all may take part.

In November of last year the N.C.A. Raw Products Technical Advisory Committee sponsored a special conference on bean breeding. Those attending the conference were technical agricultural representatives of the processors, representatives of the bean seedsmen, and bean breeders from the agricultural experiment stations and USDA. A thorough discussion was held on all aspects of bean breeding, with particular emphasis on types and quality of snap beans desired for processing.

At the end of the meeting the conference appointed a steering committee to develop a program in 1957 on aspects of snap bean improvement other than plant breeding. The program for the coming symposium was arranged by the steering committee, comprising Mark H. Mitchell, The Larsen Co., chairman; L. W. Corbett, Northrup-King Co.; W. D. Enzie, Birds Eye Div., General Foods Corp.; W. A. Frazier, Oregon State College; T. T. Hopkins, Rogers Bros. Seed Co.; and W. J. Zaumeyer of USDA.

SNAP BEAN IMPROVEMENT SYMPOSIUM
Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.
November 13, 1957

Presiding: Morton Adams, Chairman, N.C.A. Raw Products Technical Advisory Committee

9:00 Mechanical Harvesting:

- Bush Bean Harvester—Morton Adams, Alton Canning Co., Inc.
- Pole Bean Harvester—W. A. Frazier, Oregon State College
- General discussion

10:15 Varietal Survey:

- Evaluation of Available Varieties—W. J. Zaumeyer, USDA
- General discussion

1:00 Influence of Environmental Conditions on Pod Set, Development, and Quality:

- Survey of Research—W. H. Gabelman, University of Wisconsin
- General discussion

2:30 Seed Quality, Round Table Discussion: W. D. Enzie, Birds Eye Div., General Foods Corp., Discussion Leader

- Evaluation of seed quality for viability and vigor—a survey of present status of methods—Edwin A. Crosby, N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau
- Relationship of growing, harvesting, processing, storage and transport techniques to the viability and vigor of seed as delivered to the grower—Walter H. Pierce, Asgrow Research Center
- Inheritance factors—relation, if any, of disease resistance, plant type, and desired processing qualities to see viability and vigor—J. D. Atkin, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
- General discussion

Grades of Canned Onions

The Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA has issued U. S. Standards for grades of canned onions. The standards apply only to canned whole onions.

The standards provide for classifying the product as U. S. Grade A (Fancy), U. S. Grade C (Standard), and Substandard. Quality is determined by evaluation of color, uniformity of size and shape, defects, and character.

Text of the standards was published in the *Federal Register* of October 2. The standards will be effective 30 days after publication.

Average Prices for Cherries

Following are preliminary season average prices per ton received by growers for sweet cherries and sour cherries for processing during 1957, as reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

SWEET CHERRIES

State	1956	1957
	(dollars per ton)	
New York	240	238
Michigan	250	240
Washington	258	270
Oregon	270	280
California	257	245

SOUR CHERRIES

State	1956	1957
	(dollars per ton)	
New York	164	150
Ohio	145	150
Michigan	148	137
Washington	160	163

Economic Conditions in Agriculture

In recent public addresses, Secretary Benson has stated that agriculture is making readjustments in this postwar period with much less difficulty than after any other major war, and has reviewed economic conditions in agriculture as follows:

"(1) Farm income is increasing for the second consecutive peacetime year—the only such increases since 1947. Figured on a per-farm basis, the increase from 1955 to 1956 was 7 percent.

"(2) Farm prices are at the highest level they have been in the past three years, and the gains have been achieved primarily in the market, not through price support."

[The index of prices received by farmers in mid-September was reported by USDA at 245 percent of the 1910-14 average, 4 percent above September a year ago. The index of prices paid by farmers was at 296, up 3 percent from a year ago. The parity ratio was 1 percent higher than a year ago.]

"(3) Farm assets are at an all-time high and farms have only $11 in debts for each $100 of assets. Farm ownership is at a record high and only 1 out of 3 farms has a mortgage.

"(4) Exports of farm commodities totaled $4.7 billion in fiscal 1957 and are at an all-time high in both quantity and value, which establishes foreign markets of great benefit to American farmers for many years to come. This was 16 percent above 1952, which was our previous high and which came during the Korean conflict. Wheat exports during the 1956-57 marketing year climbed to an all-time peak of 547 million bushels.

"(5) Surplus holdings of Commodity Credit Corporation have been reduced by approximately one-sixth during the last 16 months.

"(6) Family farms continue to dominate the agricultural scene—96 percent of our farms and ranches are family operations, about the same as 30 years ago.

"(7) Participation by farmers in programs of soil conservation has increased 37 percent in the past four years.

"(8) The Rural Development Program is under way in 30 states and is being expanded.

"(9) The Soil Bank is doing an effective job of reducing surpluses and supplementing farm income, in addition to conserving soil and water resources for future needs.

"(10) The value of all farm assets increased $8.6 billion during the past year."

The Secretary said that "we still need forward-looking legislation" and that study groups are now working on legislation to be presented to the next session of Congress. This legislation, he said, will seek the following overall objectives:

"An agriculture which encourages technological progress;

"An agriculture that provides for farmers an opportunity to share fairly in our rising levels of living;

"An agriculture that recognizes the need to conserve soil, water, and forest resources for future generations."

Family Weekly

An article entitled "Breaking The Time Barrier," featuring canned foods, appeared in the September 22 issue of *Family Weekly* magazine.

Melanie DeProft, food editor of *Family Weekly*, introduced the 13 main dish recipes given in her article with: "From kitchen shelf to proud table service in a matter of minutes. The genius of America's great food processors has lifted the problem of 'meals in a hurry' from an hour of crisis to a moment of confidence!"

The following canned foods are used in the recipes: chicken, shrimp, luncheon meat, tuna, chili without beans, beef stew, beef gravy, corned beef hash, chopped ham, peaches, tomato sauce, mushrooms, peas, tomatoes, cream of celery soup, catsup, macaroni in cheese sauce, pimientos, ripe olives, pineapple, cream of mushroom soup, and asparagus. Two of the dishes are pictured in an attractive color photograph.

Family Weekly is a Sunday magazine that reaches over 4 million through 164 newspapers in smaller cities.

'Canning Industry' Mailings

Copies of *The Canning Industry*, an N.C.A. publication setting forth the public service values of the industry and its products, were mailed this week to 456 university and college libraries, 671 of the public libraries in cities of largest population and in communities where canneries are located, and 49 of the state extension libraries.

The new edition is the third. The publication was introduced by the N.C.A. Information Division in 1952.

Shipments of Glass Containers

Shipments of glass containers for food during the first eight months of 1957 have been reported by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

	Jan.–Aug. 1956	Jan.–Aug. 1957
	(thousands of gross)	
Wide-mouth food (including fruit jars and jelly glasses)	25,139	27,469
Narrow-neck food	9,732	10,302

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